

12, 2000. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, a check in the amount of \$435.00 is enclosed, which is the process fee for a three-month extension of time. If the check is inadvertently omitted, or should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Assistant commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/10008123.

### AMENDMENTS

Please replace claims 54, 57, 67, 68, 70 and 71 with the substitute amended claims 54, 57, 67, 68, 70 and 71 contained herein. A marked up copy of the amended claims is provided as Appendix A. A clean copy of all pending claims 39-96 after amendment are provided in Appendix B.

#### Amended claims:

---

54. (Amended) A nucleic acid of from about 850 to about 10,000 nucleotides in length comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a methylthioadenosine phosphorylase polypeptide, said polypeptide comprising a sequence region of at least about 10 contiguous residues from SEQ ID NO:2.

---

57. (Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 54, wherein said nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a heterologous promoter.

---

67. (Amended) A vector comprising at least a first nucleotide sequence that encodes a mammalian methylthioadenosine phosphorylase polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

68. (Amended) The vector of claim 67, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

---